

**REMARKS**

The Examiner requests that Applicants select one of the following groups for prosecution on the merits:

Group I        -        Claims 1-6, drawn to a glass substrate, a mask blank, and a transfer mask, classified in class 430, subclass 5.

Group II       -        Claims 7-17, drawn to a method of producing a glass substrate for a mask blank, classified in class 65, subclass 31.

Group III      -        Claims 18 and 19, drawn to a method of producing a mask blank and a transfer mask, classified in class 427, subclass 162.

In response to the Restriction Requirement Applicant has elected Group II (claims 7-17) for examination in the above-identified application. This election is made with traverse.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims in Group III also should be examined with those of elected Group II. The basic features of the invention in claims 18 and 19 depend from the features recited in claims 7-17, as expressly stated in claim 18. For the sake of efficiency, these claims can be examined together.

Applicant reserves all rights under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file a divisional application to the non-elected groups of claims.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Response to Restriction Requirement  
Application No. 10/619,181

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

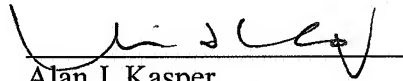
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**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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